

Application No. 10/669,502

Docket No.: 2901683.13

REMARKS***Introduction***

Receipt of the Office Action mailed November 18, 2005 is acknowledged. Applicants have amended the claims to recite more clearly and distinctly that which they consider their inventions, and have cancelled claims 66-79 solely in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the application. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112, ¶ 2

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to the claims as allegedly indefinite have been obviated by the above claim amendments. Specifically, in claims 1 and 66, the recitations of "about" have been deleted. Claims 1 and 3 have been re-written to clarify that the "two external faces" are a characterization of those of the metal sheet layers. Claim 5 has been re-written to clarify that all metal sheets meet the thickness requirement. The rejection of claims 66-77 has been rendered moot by its cancellation.

With regard to the recitations of "5186 alloys" in claims 4 and 5, applicants respectfully submit that they do not render the claims indefinite. The Mg content of 5186 alloys range from 3.5 to 4.5%. Because claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, it is clear that claims 4 and 5 would encompass only those 5186 alloys the Mg content of which is 4% or more. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

The Office Action maintained the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 22, 24, 27, 28, 43, 45, 48, 49, 66, 67, 70, 71 and 77-78 under 35 USC §102(b), stating that the recitation of "about" in the claims render the claims to read on the Sobolev (U.S. Patent No 5,219,629). Solely in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, applicants have amended the claims to remove the recitations of "about." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been overcome.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Office Action further maintained the rejections of claims 1-7, 22-28, 43-49 and 65-79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Schalkwuk (WO 98/53989), or over Roebroeks (US 5,547,735). After the above amendment, the claims cannot be interpreted to recite an alloy with Mg content in the range of 2.2-2.8%. Accordingly, the two cited references no longer are sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been overcome and should now be withdrawn.

In summary, applicant respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early indication from the Examiner to that effect. If there is any issue remaining, the Examiner is solicited to call the undersigned at 202-508-3450 which should expedite the proceedings for all concerned.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-0553, under Order No. 2901683.13, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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